

Final Meeting Notes
LCR MSCP Steering Committee Meeting April 24, 2019
McCarran Airport, Mezzanine Rooms 4&5

Attending

Gil Cristobal
Riva Heninger
Vineetha Kartha
Tim Mariscal
Jessica Neuwerth
Peggy Roefer
Laura Simonek
John Swett

Chuck Cullom
Eric Hill
Jimmy Knowles
Craig McGinnis
Wade Noble
Carrie Ronning
Jon Sjoberg
Ruth Valencia

Cheyenne Garcia
Rich Juricich
Bill Lamb
Terry Murphy
Sara Price
Seth Shanahan
Jim Stolberg
Laura Vecerina

Attending Via Conference Call

Bert Bell
J.R Eckheart
Ned Hyduke
Kara Matthews
Doyle Wilson

Scott Bryon
Jess Gwinn
Matt Jeppson
Dana Sedig
David Vigil

Linda Carbone
Chris Hayes
Jamie Kelly
Stevie Sharp

1. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Introductions

The meeting convened at 9:30 a.m. by John Swett. There were self-introductions of all attending. John noted that both the Steering Committee Chair and Vice-Chair positions were currently vacant and that he would chair the meeting until after the election agenda item.

Review of Agenda

The agenda was reviewed and approved (Moved by Chuck Cullom, seconded by Vineetha Kartha, and adopted by consensus).

Public Comments

No public comments were offered.

Approve October 24, 2018 Meeting Notes

The October 24, 2018 Meeting Notes were approved. (Moved by Jessica Neuwerth, seconded by Jon Sjoberg, and adopted by consensus.)

Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Vineetha Kartha nominated Seth Shanahan, Southern Nevada Water Authority, for Chair of the Steering Committee and Jessica Neuwerth nominated Vineetha Kartha, Arizona Department of Water Resources, as Vice-Chair. Chuck Cullom seconded both nominations. The motion for Chair and Vice-Chair was approved and adopted by consensus.

2. WORK PLAN AND BUDGET

FY18 Accomplishment: John Swett provided an overview of the FY18 accomplishments. He noted that the required program for FY18 was \$31,251,240. Reclamation proposed, and the Steering Committee approved, a budget of \$33,496,740. Actual accomplishment was \$24,858,154.65. Actual accomplishment was less than the approved amount due to delays in securing land and water for the Dennis Underwood Conservation Area, delays in initiating the construction of erosion control structures at Planet Ranch, and costs of canal improvements at the Imperial Ponds Conservation Area, which were less than anticipated. John noted that \$1,122,360 had been contributed to the Remedial Measures Fund, bringing the total in the fund with interest to \$7,542,121.16. The total amount in the Habitat Maintenance Fund with interest is \$34,285,574.82. No funding was contributed to the Land and Water Fund in FY18. John noted the current balance in the Land and Water Fund was \$15,400,000. The group managers presented highlights from their FY18 program (see the power point presentation posted to the website with the 4-24-19 meeting materials).

Proposed FY20 Program: John Swett noted that the GDP inflation factor that is used in calculating the LCR MSCP inflation rate had been rebased again. Dana Sedig from the Central Arizona Project revised the GDP inflation calculations to adjust for the rebasing. Based on the revised calculations, the preliminary inflation rate for FY20 is 1.501. This results in minimum required program funding for FY20 of \$33,268,164. John noted that Reclamation was proposing a program of \$27,144,814. He noted that the proposed annual program budget is less than the minimum required funding due to current construction capability. The balance will be held in reserve by Reclamation and used in future years to complete conservation measure requirements, especially habitat creation and management activities.

Draft FY20 Work Plan and Budget Review Schedule: John noted that the Work Group meeting to review the Draft Implementation Report, Fiscal Year 2020 Work Plan and Budget, Fiscal Year 2018 Accomplishment Report was scheduled May 8-9 in San Diego. The Wildlife Group will be attending and presenting this year. Written comments should be sent to Laura Vecerina by May 7th. He noted that the Final Report will be posted to the website by June 19st.

FY19 Work Plan and Budget: John Swett reviewed Resolution 19-002 which proposed to increase FY19 funding for Work Task E39: Dennis Underwood Conservation Area by \$9,730,000. This increase was for securing land and water through a permanent easement for conservation purposes, which had been approved by the Steering Committee (PDD 19-001) in October 24, 2018. The Steering Committee had approved budget authority in the FY2019 Work Plan to expend up to \$31,968,788, which had included putting \$3,300,000 into the Land and Water Fund. Instead of placing the \$3,300,000 into the Land and Water Fund, Reclamation is planning to use the \$3,300,000 towards Work Task E39. Reclamation is requesting that the Steering Committee increase FY2019 budget authority by an additional \$6,430,000, which would bring the total approved amount to \$38,398,788.

It was moved that the LCR MSCP Steering Committee approve, by consensus, increasing the *Final Implementation Report, Fiscal Year 2019 Work Plan and Budget, Fiscal Year 2017 Accomplishment Report* to \$38,398,788 (Moved by Chuck Cullom, Seconded by Wade Noble, and approved by consensus).

3. PROCESS UPDATES

John Swett provided an update on the subcommittee meetings that had been held to discuss whether to increase the reduction in flow coverage for the LCR MSCP. He noted that the Steering Committee had approved the formation of the subcommittee at the October 24, 2018 Steering Committee meeting. At a meeting held in December, the subcommittee came to a consensus that increasing the reduction in flow coverage up to 1,574,000 afy below Hoover and Davis dams should be further explored. John noted that the subcommittee had a follow up call to discuss next steps. He noted that there was still conversation needed with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) and that another meeting of the subcommittee had been scheduled in May.

Reclamation would like to get approval from the Steering Committee to begin discussions with the Service about the potential reconsultation. John noted that this was not approval to move forward with the action, but rather to continue having dialog. The Steering Committee would still need to approve whether to move forward with increasing coverage and approve any amendments to the HCP. The following motion was approved.

The Steering Committee approves Reclamation initiating discussions with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding consultation to increase future change in flow coverage up to 1,574,000 afy between Hoover and Parker Dams (moved by Jessica Neuwerth, seconded by Vineetha Kartha, and approved by consensus).

4. STEERING COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

Laura Vecerina noted that the Work Group meeting to review the Draft Implementation Report, Fiscal Year 2020 Work Plan and Budget, Fiscal Year 2018 Accomplishment Report was scheduled for May 8th and 9th in San Diego. A Steering Committee Conference Call is scheduled for June 26th.

5. SUMMARY AND ACTION ITEMS

The Steering Committee took action on 5 items.

6. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m.